

As discussed below, the Commission believes that delayed implementation of the PMM standards until February 1, 1996 and limited extension of the short sales rule until August 3, 1996 (rather than June 3, 1996) is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.⁷

Maintaining the current operation of the short sale rule until the NASD has completed and tested the systems necessary to provide market participants adequate notice of a market maker's PMM status will avoid confusion in the marketplace and assure consistency in the application of NASD rules. Moreover, extension of the short sale rule until August 3, 1996 will maintain the effectiveness of the PMM standards for six months, as envisioned by the Commission's Original Approval Order. As noted in the Original Approval Order, this will provide the Commission and the NASD the opportunity to study the effects of the rule and its exemptions and to determine whether these are practicable and necessary on an ongoing basis, or whether other alternatives would be more appropriate.

In the Original Approval Order, the Commission stated that experience with the NASD's short sale rule may demonstrate that some or all of the elements of the rule require reconsideration. The Commission notes that this is the NASD's second proposal to extend the operation of the short sale rule due to technical problems associated with the implementation of the PMM designation. The Commission is concerned about the delay in implementing the PMM designation which inhibits the ability to assess the effects of the short sale rule with the designation in place and, thus, expects that no further delays will be necessary.

V. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of the

furtherance of the Act, *id.* § 78o-3(b) (9), and to produce fair and informative quotations, to prevent fictitious or misleading quotations, and to promote orderly procedures for collecting, distributing and publishing quotations. *Id.* § 78o-3(b) (11). In addition, the Commission believes that the rule change will further the goals of Section 11A in that it will promote efficient and effective market operations and economically efficient execution of investor orders in the best market and assure fair competition between the exchange markets and the OTC market and among brokers and dealers. *Id.* § 78k-1(a) (1) (C).

⁷ Securities Exchange Act Release No. 34277 (June 29, 1994), 59 FR 34885 (July 7, 1994).

submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NASD. All submissions should refer to the file number SR-NASD-95-58 and should be submitted by December 27, 1995.

VI. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Commission believes the rule change is consistent with the Act and, therefore, has determined to approve it.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b) (2) of the Act, that the rule change SR-NASD-95-58 be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁸

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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[Release No. 34-36524; File No. SR-Phlx-95-76]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 to Proposed Rule Change by the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. Relating to Uniform Listing and Trading Guidelines for Narrow-based Stock Index Warrants

November 29, 1995.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), 15 U.S.C. § 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on October 27, 1995, the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. On November 22, 1995, the Phlx submitted Amendment No. 1 ("Amendment No. 1") to the proposal to establish a maintenance requirement with respect to the minimum number of securities that must comprise an index underlying

a warrant issuance, to clarify issues relating to settlement values for both narrow-based and broad-based index warrants, and to amend certain position limit levels applicable to narrow-based index warrants.¹ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change and Amendment No. 1 from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Phlx proposes to amend Exchange Rules 722, 803, 1000A, and 1001A to establish uniform listing and trading guidelines applicable to narrow-based stock index warrants. The text of the proposed rule change and Amendment No. 1 thereto is available at the Office of the Secretary, Phlx and at the Commission.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Phlx included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Phlx has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

In view of the recent approval of the regulatory framework for stock index warrants on broad-based stock indexes,² the Exchange now proposes to establish uniform listing and trading guidelines for warrants based on narrow-based indexes. To accommodate the trading of warrants on narrow-based indexes, the Exchange proposes to modify the recently approved regulatory framework for broad-based index warrants.³ Thus, the Exchange proposes to conform the rules applicable to warrants on narrow-based indexes to those applicable to options on narrow-based indexes.

¹ Letter from Michele R. Weisbaum, Associate General Counsel, Phlx, to Michael Walinskas, SEC, dated November 22, 1995.

² See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 36167 (Aug. 29, 1995).

³ The Exchange notes that a substantially similar regulatory scheme generally applies to broad-based index options and warrants.

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a) (12).

The Commission approved the trading of options on narrow-based indexes in 1982 and it approved the trading of stock index warrants in 1988.⁴ Because the Commission has experience regulating warrants, the Phlx does not believe that the listing of warrants on narrow-based stock indexes will present any novel regulatory issues and, therefore, should be permitted on the same basis as warrants overlying broad-based indexes.

To conform the trading of warrants on narrow-based indexes to the rules applicable to options on narrow-based indexes, the Exchange proposes that the same margin requirements applicable to short sales of narrow-based index options apply to warrants overlying the same index. In addition, the Exchange proposes to apply a position limit structure similar to that which is applicable to narrow-based index options. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to establish position limits for narrow-based index warrants at three separate, fixed-tier amounts (4,500,000, 6,750,000, and 9,000,000), the applicable level being determined by the level of index component concentration.⁵ These levels are equivalent to 75% of the position limits currently applicable to narrow-based index options. Because broad-based index warrant position limit levels were established at approximately 75% of the corresponding levels for broad-based index options, the Exchange believes it is appropriate to establish narrow-based index warrant position limits at the corresponding level applicable to narrow-based index options.⁶

Also consistent with the existing regulatory framework for broad-based warrants, the issuer may elect to use closing prices for the securities underlying the index to determine settlement values at all times other than the day on which the final settlement value is to be determined ("valuation date"), as well as during the two business days preceding valuation date.⁷ Finally, the Exchange represents

that it will not list a warrant on an index consisting of fewer than nine stocks unless the SEC separately approves such index for warrant trading. In addition, the Phlx will impose a maintenance standard that requires an index to have at least nine stocks at all times, unless separately approved by the SEC.⁸

In all other respects, the Exchange represents that the rules applicable to the trading of broad-based and narrow-based index options are the same. Accordingly, it proposes that all other rules applicable to broad-based index warrants apply equally to warrants on narrow-based indexes. Finally, the Exchange represents that it will surveil trading in narrow-based index warrants in a similar manner to the surveillance of trading in broad-based index warrants.

Upon approval of this filing, the Exchange proposes that additional Commission review of a specific narrow-based warrant issuance will be required only for warrants overlying narrow-based indexes that have not previously been approved by the SEC for option or warrant trading. Thus, upon approval of this filing, the Exchange proposes it be permitted to list a warrant on any narrow-based index that the SEC has already approved for option trading.⁹

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act in general and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) in particular in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices and to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers and dealers.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change will reduce or eliminate a burden on competition by allowing the listing of warrants on narrow-based indexes in the same manner as options on narrow-based indexes.

⁸ See Amendment No. 1.

⁹ In order to expedite SEC review of a particular warrant issuance, the Exchange may file for approval of the index underlying the proposed warrants pursuant to the procedures and criteria set forth in Rule 1009A. These criteria establish streamlined procedures for listing options on stock industry groups (*i.e.*, narrow-based). Accordingly, the Exchange proposes that the same criteria apply to subsequent proposals to establish narrow-based indexes which underlie proposed warrant issuances.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants or Others

The Exchange has neither solicited nor received written comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 days of the publication of this notice in the Federal Register or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve the proposed rule change, or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 552, will be available for inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Phlx. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Phlx-95-76 and should be submitted by December 27, 1995.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁰

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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¹⁰ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12) (1994).

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 19264 (Nov. 22, 1982) and 26152 (Oct. 3, 1988).

⁵ See Amendment No. 1.

⁶ The position limit tiers have been established at levels that represent 75% of the levels recently approved by the SEC in connection with a Phlx proposal to increase position limits for narrow-based index options. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 36194 (Sept. 6, 1995). Accordingly, the Exchange proposes that position limits for narrow-based index warrants be set at roughly 75% of the 6,000, 9,000 and 12,000 position limit levels.

⁷ See Amendment No. 1. The Commission notes that although the recently approved regulatory framework for broad-based index warrants establishes uniform settlement provisions for all exchanges, the Phlx in this filing proposes to amend Section 803(e)(3) to clarify its rule language.